

Legislative Issue Brief – Delinking Aid to Families with Dependent Children from the IV-E Program



Catawba County Board of Commissioner's Legislative Goal

Support delinking Aid to Families with Dependent Children from the IV-E Program

Background

Congress needs to eliminate the current eligibility link between Title IV-E foster care and the AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) program as part of a finance reform proposal. Federal reimbursement for foster care should extend to all children in foster care, regardless of their parent's income.

Currently approximately half of the children in foster care in Catawba County qualify for the federal reimbursement. For a child's case to be eligible for federal reimbursement, the child's birth parents need to have a very low income that would have qualified for AFDC according to 1996 standards, which are outdated. All foster children placed in licensed foster homes receive exactly the same benefits and services regardless of the case's eligibility for federal reimbursement. When a child is not eligible for IVE, state and local funds must be used to offset costs of care. This same eligibility determination also affects the flow of federal dollars for the support of foster case management while a child is in foster care.

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Current as of April 8, 2010